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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 5 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, which supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that States needed to work jointly to tackle the adverse effects of the global financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and climate change, which threatened the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Arab Group had taken numerous actions in response to those crises, including through resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait in January 2009. It looked forward to effective participation in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which should reaffirm the international community's commitment to those Goals and particularly Goal 8 on an international partnership for development.

2. The developing and least developed countries had limited resources and capacity to deal with the economic and social problems exacerbated by the global financial crisis, for which they had not been responsible. That crisis had been the result of an outdated international financial system governed by unjust rules and regulations which did not take into account the interests of all concerned. The Group of Twenty (G-20) had recently adopted recommendations without input from developing countries, whose views would have been useful. The Arab Group stressed the importance of improving the international financial system, multilateral oversight, IMF lending methods, the international system for payments and reserves, and reform of the Bretton Woods institutions to foster developing countries' participation in decision-making. Reform of the quota and voting systems was also needed. The United Nations must ensure follow-up on the implementation of the final outcome document of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development within the framework of the Organization and of other relevant international financial institutions.

3. In light of the continuing decline in official development assistance (ODA), States needed to adhere to the Monterrey Consensus, and not count debt relief and humanitarian aid as part of ODA. Developed nations must fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP to the least developed countries by 2010. It was also crucial to implement the commitments in the final document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. The international community should give particular attention to least developed Arab States with high poverty levels, and fulfil its commitment to help African countries integrate into the world economy, focusing on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It should also take into account the needs of middle-income developing countries and cancel, reduce or restructure the debt of heavily indebted poor countries.

4. Climate change must be addressed within the context of sustainable development in a balanced way, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol were the most important international instruments in that context.

5. The Group hoped that the political momentum generated during the recent United Nations Summit on Climate Change would lead to positive results during the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. Joint efforts were needed to address desertification and drought, which affected most Arab countries, and to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The final outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference must help assess developed countries' fulfilment of their commitments, such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

6. There was a need to address the economic, social and humanitarian plight of Palestinians and Syrians living under Israeli occupation. States must not allow Israel to continue its destructive policies, which undermined Palestinian development, and must take adequate steps, including through withdrawal of economic support, to force Israel to respect its obligations under international law.

7. Multilateral trade negotiations should continue, and membership of developing countries in the World Trade Organization (WTO) should be facilitated, without politicization. The food crisis was a matter of grave concern and required a range of measures, including immediate support to the affected countries,

and dialogue between the energy and food exporters and importers of developed and developing countries.

8. South-South cooperation should be consolidated as complementary to North-South cooperation, and financial assistance provided in that regard should not be considered as ODA, but as an aspect of partnership and cooperation among the countries of the South.

9. **Mr. Parham** (United Kingdom) said that faster progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals remained vital, and reaffirmed his Government's commitment in that regard, including through enshrining in law the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Providing more money was only part of the solution, however. Donors still needed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance provided. His delegation therefore attached importance to General Assembly resolution 62/277 on system-wide coherence, hoped for swift progress on the establishment of a consolidated gender entity in particular, and looked forward to working with other Member States on funding and governance reforms.

10. On the subject of climate change, the Committee must capitalize on the political will and vision evidenced at the recent Summit on Climate Change and ensure that the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference would provide security for all, especially the poorest countries.

11. Lastly, as the poorest were the most vulnerable to global economic and financial shocks, he strongly supported the establishment of the United Nations Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System to help produce high-quality analysis and thus ensure that aid was delivered more swiftly and effectively.

12. **Mr. Benítez Versón** (Cuba) said that, one year after the global economic and financial crisis had erupted, the global outlook continued to be discouraging, particularly for developing countries. Though some were already speaking about recovery, the crisis had in fact spread, with devastating consequences in the developing world in particular, where unemployment was rising, poverty was growing, more people were going hungry, and many children would die as a result of extreme poverty and indigence. Nations in the South had been seriously affected by a sharp drop in exports, capital flight and loss of income from services, and forced to divert a considerable share of the resources intended for their own development to address the disastrous effects of a crisis for which they were not responsible, and which had been the result of the capitalist system.

13. In response to the call for a new international economic order and for reform of the international financial institutions, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, the Committee must adopt resolutions proposing urgent and effective solutions to those problems. Developed countries needed to engage in frank dialogue, without imposing conditions or systems and models that were ill adapted to the legitimate aspirations of the developing world.

14. While the issues of agriculture and food security were important, the Committee's discussions should not prejudge the negotiations that would take place in Rome in the context of the World Summit on Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

15. Cuba had continued to make economic and social progress in spite of the obstacles associated with the financial and economic crisis, the natural disasters that had struck, and the unjust and criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade which the Government of the United States had been imposing on the country for more than 50 years. Cuba would continue to contribute to the development of other third world countries in the context of South-South cooperation.

16. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that, as the global economic crisis had confirmed the interdependence of countries, developing countries' participation in decision-making must be enhanced. The various international bodies with mandates to address the international financial architecture must adopt a holistic approach in dealing with development challenges, extending beyond banking and financial regulation to impart new impetus and scope to multilateralism. The United Nations must play a crucial role in that context. Financial flows must be more strictly regulated, and financial instruments should be simplified, harmonized and transparent. In addition to existing commitments made by developed countries, new financial resources were needed to help all countries to face the crisis, particularly developing countries, including middle-income ones. A mechanism should be established to ensure that the positions and agreements reached in the context of the United Nations were incorporated by the Group of 20 (G-20),

and other meetings of major economies. Continued trade flows, opening of markets, elimination of protectionism, strengthening of the multilateral trade system and successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round were needed to promote international trade and investment, global production and economic growth.

17. His delegation expressed concern about the increase in military spending, which directly affected countries' capacity to fight poverty and hunger and to attain the Millennium Development Goals. It was thus crucial to strengthen the direct link between disarmament and development.

18. Peru was suffering dramatically from the effects of global warming and advocated binding commitments for cooperation and technology transfer and creation of funds to develop projects specifically addressing the effects of climate change in the countries most affected. At the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, binding international commitments should be established for countries responsible for the climate change problem. Peru had adopted a number of mitigation measures, including through education and voluntary national targets, and an ambitious forest conservation programme to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. His delegation advocated ambitious global mitigation action to prevent an excessive rise in temperature, and establishment of a financial mechanism for setting up a global mitigation fund to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. That mechanism would involve a tax on oil production, distribution and sales. Peru also proposed the creation of integrated adaptation programmes and was actively promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

19. Drug trafficking did not receive due attention in discussions on global warming. Coca production caused significant deforestation and soil erosion, resulting in irreparable damage to the Amazon rainforest and thus contributing to global warming. Joint efforts must thus be made to stop drug trafficking and related criminal activities, not only through legislation but also through programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and alternative and sustainable development.

20. **Mr. Shin Boonam** (Republic of Korea) said that, although his country was not an Annex I party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it was committed to tackling the issue of climate change, for example by setting an emission reduction target for 2020 and adopting and investing in a national strategy to reduce carbon and stimulate green growth. His delegation proposed the establishment of a voluntary registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries.

21. His Government was committed to tripling its ODA by 2015, and had provided financial support and know-how through the Millennium Villages project. With regard to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, the Republic of Korea supported the establishment of an open-ended working group. His country would be hosting the G-20 Summit in 2010 and hoped to contribute to enhanced cooperation and dialogue among all Member States in discussing responses to the crisis and the revitalization of the international financial and economic architecture. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS) and the International Labour Organization's "Global Jobs Pact", which would strengthen the global partnership needed to respond to the economic crisis. His delegation supported the multilateral trade system and trade liberalization, and hoped for conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010.

22. Water also remained a pivotal issue. His country had allocated about one fifth of its budget for green growth to improve domestic water management. Countries needed to work together to resolve water-related issues and the international community should promote more effective governance in that regard. His delegation supported the exploration of options for a specialized and unified water management cooperation initiative.

23. **Mr. Meñez** (Philippines) said that, in the light of the extreme weather events and natural disasters which had recently struck his country and the Asia-Pacific region in general, the Philippines particularly appreciated the mechanisms set up under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for delivering assistance to those in need. The policy decisions arising from the Committee's discussions on sustainable development and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction could help prevent and alleviate the suffering of many people worldwide.

24. The consequences of the global financial and economic crisis remained of major concern and the Committee had much work to do on the subject of reform of the international financial system. Although some efforts had been made to broaden understanding of the actions taken by the G-20, many delegations felt that consultations should be held before any final policy decisions with effects extending far beyond the borders of the G-20 were taken. He reiterated his delegation's call for innovative debt sustainability initiatives to help address the debt burden affecting middle-income countries in the context of the global crisis. He drew attention to the global downturn's impact on migration and the various platforms for addressing that matter, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The 2009 Human Development Report was another valuable tool for discussing human mobility and development in the context of the United Nations.

25. As for climate change, he drew the Committee's attention to the main objectives set out in the Manila Declaration on Green Industry in Asia: for Governments to establish policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks conducive to shifting to resource-efficient and low-carbon industries, consistent with the sustainability business principle. Climate change discussions, in which his delegation participated actively, must look beyond parochial interests and find a common and sustainable development path reversing the calamitous effects of human activity on the planet.

26. **Mr. Apakan** (Turkey) said that recent deepening financial and economic crises, combined with volatile fuel prices, food insecurity, the influenza pandemic and climate change, had demonstrated once again the need for collective efforts to bring about global solutions. The Committee must make every effort to address all aspects of the development agenda, in terms both of policy options and implementation, while focusing on the elimination of existing economic, social and environmental barriers to sustainable development. In that context, Turkey fully supported the convening of a formal summit by the Secretary-General in 2010 to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and to define the required efforts and actions for the final five years before 2015.

27. The burden of global challenges was felt most by the developing countries, which had benefited least from globalization but were suffering the most from its adverse effects on growth, employment and social welfare. It was estimated that between 73 and 103 million people would remain poor or fall into poverty as a result of the global crisis; thus, even as economies shrank, eradicating poverty was the major challenge for the international community.

28. The international community would have to continue its efforts to support the developing world on its path to sustainable development, within the framework of a renewed global development agenda and through increased foreign investments and enhanced trade facilities. If the Doha Development Round negotiations could be completed successfully, that would promote the integration of the least developed countries into the world economy.

29. Making good on commitments was of vital importance in the quest for universal sustainable growth and development. As an emerging donor and G-20 member, Turkey considered ODA to be one of the main tools for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and was committed to enriching and deepening its development agenda for the benefit of all, in particular the least developed countries.

30. The operational activities of the United Nations could be further strengthened to increase their effectiveness and efficiency, ensuring that development assistance delivered results and accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Organization could play a crucial role in fostering solidarity, coordination and partnership between donors and the developing world, and implementation of the "One UN" approach was certainly a step in the right direction. It was also crucial that development cooperation be demand-driven and based on developing countries' own strategies and plans.

31. Climate change was one of the most important challenges facing the world and its negative effects had begun to be felt everywhere. A credible response to climate change should come from both the developed and developing countries, with international efforts geared to combating global emissions on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, without jeopardizing sustainable development initiatives and with due regard for developing countries' needs for technology transfer and financing. The Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General on 22 September had been

very timely, sending a strong message to the negotiators that agreement must be reached in Copenhagen.

32. Turkey welcomed the efforts to further streamline the Committee's agenda but, given the wide-ranging and substantive issues before the Committee, additional efforts were still needed to focus the discussions on result-oriented policy options. It was also essential that the work in the Committee be coordinated with that of the Economic and Social Council. Turkey also saw room for improvement in the preparation of reports, with enrichment of their content and avoidance of duplication.

33. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) observed that the overall situation of the global economy had further deteriorated and the burden on developing countries had increased. The multiple and interrelated crises and challenges in the areas of energy, food and climate change had been further exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis which had resulted in a global economic recession. The Second Committee had to address all those issues in a manner commensurate with their gravity. Innovative and action-oriented approaches were needed, plus the political will to implement them.

34. The majority of developing countries had not been on schedule for achieving the Millennium Development Goals even before the outbreak of the various crises, and their efforts had since been further undermined. The current session must provide much-needed political impetus and guidance in preparation for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, which would review progress made and chart the way forward.

35. The world financial and economic crisis had imposed many additional difficulties on the developing countries. The Committee's deliberations and the resolutions adopted should reflect that reality. There was a need for a comprehensive approach to the crisis, with urgent implementation of existing development commitments and undertaking of new and additional ones, with the overall aim of achieving sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. While developing countries were the most adversely affected by it, the global financial and economic crisis had arisen from the structural imbalances and deficiencies of the prevailing system. Accordingly, the discussions and resolutions must be based on the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, with a view to a comprehensive and fundamental reform of the international economic and financial system. There was a need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in international decision-making and norm-setting, including in the international financial institutions.

36. The world financial and economic crisis had placed many additional constraints on financing for development since the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development of December 2008. The strain in the financial sector had resulted in severe constraints on funding accessible to developing countries in the form of investment flows, trade, ODA and credit, compounded by shrinking inflows from tourism and reduced migrants' remittances. Egypt looked forward to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held on 23 and 24 November as an opportunity to address many of the challenges that had emerged over the past year. It intended to work constructively with its partners in order to identify concerns and to agree on ways to address them through the relevant resolutions.

37. Climate change was an issue of great concern to all countries, but to the developing ones in particular. The strong political message that had been sent by the Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General at the beginning of the session should strengthen the momentum needed in preparation for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December. It was vital for the Second Committee to send the message that the Conference must reach a landmark agreement, one that was based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and that duly reflected countries' views and aspirations with regard to mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

38. The ongoing food crisis represented a challenge to the global fight against hunger, as well as to the efforts of developing countries to achieve food security. In that regard, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 63/235 by which an item entitled "Agriculture development and food security" had been placed on the agenda of the current session of the Assembly, pursuant to an initiative taken by Egypt, Chile and Indonesia, to raise the level of political

attention accorded in the United Nations to development of agriculture and food security. Egypt also looked forward to the World Summit on Food Security convened by FAO for 16 and 17 November 2009, as a forum to continue addressing those important issues.

39. The Committee needed to move forward at the current session towards shaping a comprehensive United Nations energy agenda, including the creation of an effective mechanism to transfer advanced energy technologies to developing countries, with particular emphasis on renewable energies.

40. An ambitious and development-oriented agreement on the Doha Development Round remained elusive. The Committee needed to send a strong message of political commitment to the swift completion of the Round. The decline that the current crisis was causing in the volume of international trade, particularly in the exports of developing countries, and the rise of protectionist tendencies had made that goal even more pressing.

41. It was of utmost importance to address the special development needs of Africa, since that continent was the farthest from achieving the internationally agreed development goals and the Millennium Development Goals in particular. Concrete actions had to be taken to implement the agreements reached in the United Nations political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, particularly with regard to the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring implementation of development commitments.

42. Egypt reiterated its long-standing commitment to support the development challenges and needs of all categories of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, which now required new and additional support and resources from the international community to deal with the current challenging global situation. Egypt also attached great importance to other United Nations processes taking place outside the Second Committee that directly affected its deliberations, such as the ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. The Committee needed in its deliberations to be mindful of progress made in those processes, while also remaining conscious of others under way outside the United Nations but which also directly impacted the Committee's work. For example, Egypt believed that the efforts of the G-20 would benefit from greater coordination with the United Nations and that its composition needed to be more representative, especially with regard to Africa.

43. **Ms. Viotti** (Brazil) observed that, while a global economic meltdown had perhaps been avoided, a sustained and robust recovery still needed to be secured, particularly for developing countries. The root causes of the pressing food security issues had yet to be adequately addressed. At the same time, the threat posed by climate change remained ever present. As the President of Brazil had pointed out in his address to the General Assembly, in an increasingly interdependent world, collective action was not an option but a necessity, and the United Nations remained the appropriate forum for such effort.

44. Overcoming the financial and economic crisis remained an ongoing concern, especially for developing countries. At the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, the G-20 London and Pittsburgh summits and many other international gatherings, a host of measures had been devised to avoid economic collapse and lay the foundations for recovery. But much more needed to be done: developing countries needed new and additional resources for the implementation of countercyclical policies; financial market regulations needed to be overhauled so as to avoid a recurrence of the problems which had generated the crisis. The governance structures of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank must be reformed in order to reflect a more balanced set of interests and to respond to new economic realities by giving greater voice and representation to developing countries. In that regard, the recent commitments made in Pittsburgh, although still insufficient, were a step in the right direction.

45. Concerns over food security remained. In addition to ensuring that sufficient food reached the hungry and vulnerable, it was necessary to address the underlying distortions that had generated under-investment in agriculture, particularly in the developing countries. Brazil therefore welcomed the FAO World Summit on Food Security, to be held in Rome in November, as an opportunity to discuss an integrated approach to food security leading to

comprehensive and long-lasting solutions. Such an approach must include investment in production and infrastructure, research, trade, social safety nets, emergency food assistance and nutrition. Special attention and support should be given to the food and agricultural needs of Africa. In enhancing food security governance, it was imperative to strengthen FAO and, in particular, its Committee on World Food Security.

46. Responding to the impacts of climate change was also crucial, given the clear link between climate change and development. The world could not be kept waiting: bold commitments must be made in Copenhagen. Nothing short of a comprehensive and ambitious agreement, within the setting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, would meet the challenge of keeping global warming well below the 2 degrees Celsius target. For developing countries to embark on a low-carbon development path, access to and transfer of technology were imperative, as were adequate new and additional financial resources for nationally appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions, under the provisions of the Framework Convention.

47. Implementation of the agreements reached in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in 2002 in Johannesburg, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was all the more relevant and urgent today. Despite progress in many areas, environmental degradation affected the livelihood of millions worldwide, particularly in developing countries. It was important to recommit to the agreements and follow through with appropriate means of implementation, if the world was to be able to ensure economic growth with environmental protection and social advancement.

48. Brazil had been encouraged by the support it had received from many countries for its offer to host a new conference on sustainable development in 2012. Brazil stood ready to engage with partners to define the themes of the conference, in the hope that broad agreement could be reached and be reflected in the resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21 to be adopted by the Committee.

49. In the face of the current challenges, United Nations operational activities must continue to prioritize initiatives aiming at development assistance and poverty eradication in accordance with national development priorities and plans. The specialized agencies, funds and programmes were uniquely placed to mobilize the necessary resources to support national efforts. Brazil was ready to work constructively with the United Nations development system, not only in its day-to-day activities, but also to improve its conceptual design, governance framework and rules of procedure.

50. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) observed that globalization had undoubtedly created many opportunities, but also a range of problems in attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Making use of those opportunities, a number of developing countries had made important strides in reducing poverty and eradicating hunger and epidemics. However, more than halfway to the deadline for achieving the Goal of halving poverty by 2015, their progress was starting to falter as a result both of the global financial and economic crisis and of the food crisis. That situation should be the starting point of the Committee's dialogue in the current year, since it would have major implications for cooperation for development.

51. Although the crisis had originated primarily in developed countries, the least developed countries would be the most affected by its consequences, being less able to take measures to protect themselves. Consequently, the interest of those countries had to be at the heart of the endeavours to find a solution to the crisis. It was of critical importance that the world financial system be restructured in a way that provided developing countries with sufficient resources, did not impede their capacity to develop their domestic resources, and allowed for the existence of a domestic system that supported local investments for the mobilization of such resources.

52. Qatar attached great importance to South-South cooperation, and to triangular cooperation involving countries of the North, in the economic, financial and technical fields. As Chairman of the United Nations High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, he found it heartening that all Member States had agreed on the draft resolution on the high-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Kenya in December.

53. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals required the creation of enabling conditions at both the national and international levels in order to mobilize the necessary financial resources. Thus, global partnership was of great importance for the revitalization of efforts to achieve the Goals, whose progress would be reviewed at the high-level plenary meeting in 2010. In that context, the continuing deadlock in the negotiations on the Doha Round posed a significant threat to the multilateral trading system, as well as to countries' ability to achieve the Goals. Qatar called on the developed countries to demonstrate good faith and flexibility to ensure the success of the Doha Round.

54. Turning to climate change, he emphasized Qatar's full commitment to the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular Principle VII on common but differentiated responsibilities, the continuing implementation of Agenda 21, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. Effective solutions to climate change could be found only through an integrated approach within the framework of the sustainable development process. The world summit on sustainable development to be held in Brazil in 2012 would be a real test of the international community's readiness to shoulder its responsibilities.

55. Motivated by its belief in the economic and social dimension of development, Qatar would host the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2009, to review the progress achieved by States Parties in the fight against all corrupt practices that hampered economic growth. Despite the challenges, Qatar was optimistic about the international community's awareness of its responsibility, and its resilience in dealing with unusual crises.

56. **Mr. Mbuende** (Namibia) said that the danger of climate change was revealed in daily occurrences. Climate change was man-made, the result of historical patterns of production and consumption that had undermined the basis of mankind's very existence. It had been a slow process, during which warnings signs had been ignored by those who for their own interests denied its reality and by those who pursued economic benefits while jeopardizing mankind's very existence. As developing countries made headway with their industrialization and development, they too became significant emitters of greenhouse gases, a trend that was likely to continue unless arrested through a combination of national initiatives and multilateral agreements. But the right to development could not be exercised at the expense of the right to life: two wrongs did not make a right.

57. Climate change diplomacy currently consisted of identifying what needed to be done, involving the sharing of information about the activities of each country or group of countries at the national or regional level on the one hand and statements of principle about what ought to happen at the multilateral level on the other. Climate change was global in character: national initiatives were important but would become meaningful only if synchronized with multilateral agreements in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and backed by collective action. Failure in Copenhagen was not an option. Financial commitments and predictable flows should be a key ingredient of any agreement reached in Copenhagen, in order to assist developing countries to take nationally appropriate mitigation actions and to develop a low-carbon economy. Substantial resources should be made available for research and development with a view to improving existing technologies and developing new ones and providing them to developing countries.

58. The current world economic crisis represented a historic opportunity to end the phenomenon of boom and bust that had characterized the world economy for years. Deregulation of the economy had led to anarchy and eventually to financial disaster. Those who had profited from the system had ignored the warning signals; when the signals had become too loud to be ignored, attempts had been made to rescue the culprits. The current meltdown had put huge pressure on national budgets. It had caused balance-of-payments problems, increased unemployment and worsened poverty. The WTO Doha Round remained deadlocked and had yet to deliver on its development promise. Free trade was under threat from protectionist tendencies, which if allowed to continue would negatively impact development and the fight against poverty and hunger. Namibia therefore called on all negotiating groups to make a concerted effort to reach an agreement and unlock the potential of trade to contribute to development. A governance structure should be put in place that would ensure that the

current crisis was not repeated and that countries' economies could survive cyclical shocks.

59. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) observed that economic development and technological progress over the past 60 years had not been able to solve the eternal problems of poverty and hunger. The gap between the rich and the poor continued to grow, and the United Nations with its specialized agencies, funds and programmes was the sole global organization capable of addressing such problems. The economic crisis of 2008 had caused the world to revisit many conceptual approaches that earlier had seemed carved in stone. The importance of implementing the Outcomes of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2008 Doha Review Conference, the 2009 United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis, as well as those of other conferences and summits, could not be overstated.

60. The slowdown in the global economy had reversed progress on the road to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 for many Member States, and now required a doubling if not tripling of the efforts of both developing and donor countries to mitigate the consequences of the global financial and economic crisis. As a part of the preparation for the high-level plenary meeting in 2010, each MDG task and indicator should be revised and adapted to the socio-economic realities of each country, with a more objective picture provided of implementation in the context of countries' various regions.

61. Kazakhstan was taking concrete measures to implement the Millennium Development Goals; strengthening the goals that had already been attained, improving the quality of life for all citizens and mainstreaming environmental sustainability and socially oriented development policy in all national, sectoral and local strategies and processes were cornerstones of State policy. Despite the economic circumstances, the Government continued to fulfil its social commitments. The anti-crisis measures also included stimulus plans for human capital development and employment, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, and the country's development priorities were based on the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action.

62. A new Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the period 2010-2015 had been signed in April, covering United Nations activities in the areas of economic and social well-being, sustainable development and effective public administration, including preventing and combating corrupt practices, all of which were in line with Kazakhstan's national priorities.

63. Thanks to government measures, Kazakhstan had managed to retain stability in its domestic food market, in contrast to the food crisis in many countries. It had improved investment in the agricultural sector, but would in fact be able to produce larger yields of food products if sufficient financial resources were provided to the agricultural sector. As a middle-income State, Kazakhstan would be co-financing the projects in the new UNDAF programme cycle, and looked forward to learning about best practices in predictable innovative forms of financing, especially through public-private partnerships for development and involvement of the socially responsible private sector for generating economic growth and promoting an enabling environment for all. Kazakhstan agreed that food security issues should be addressed through a balanced approach with observance of the international fair trade norms, support for humanitarian assistance and sustainable development of agriculture. Kazakhstan was ready to increase its contribution to resolution of the global food crisis by not only increasing the volume of grain production, but also increasing exports. In 2009 Kazakhstan anticipated a grain harvest yielding more than 17 million tons, mostly intended for export. However, despite Kazakhstan's export potential and self-sufficiency in supplying its domestic market with basic food products, arable lands throughout the country suffered from scarce annual precipitation, a factor of concern especially in conditions of considerable climate change.

64. Transboundary water resource management in Central Asia remained a priority for Kazakhstan. Drought and desertification in Kazakhstan had their roots deep in the country's geographical, climatic and historical legacy. Kazakhstan was grateful to the United Nations specialized agencies, international financial institutions, donor countries and other partners for their assistance and support in addressing the problems of the Aral Sea basin. Kazakhstan stood ready to collaborate further in enhancing governance over water resources.

65. On 17 September 2009, Kazakhstan had officially become a party to the Kyoto Protocol, and its Annex I. By 2050, Kazakhstan would cut its carbon emissions by 25 per cent, measured against 1990 levels, and intended to be fully engaged with all Member States in the final stage of negotiations that could pave the way to a low-carbon environment in the post-Kyoto period.

66. Kazakhstan considered regional and subregional cooperation to be an essential element of the State's sustainable development. Kazakhstan's geopolitical location between Europe and Asia enabled it to harmonize European and Asian approaches to international trade, energy, transport, environmental protection, and so on. Expanding and deepening cooperation with the countries of Europe and Asia was one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, which sought the peaceful and sustained political and economic development of all neighbouring states. As Chair-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Kazakhstan intended to make stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan one of the most important priorities of that Organization, and would continue to render humanitarian and technical assistance to that country.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.